



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

April 20, 2023 – Winthrop Library Community Room/ Zoom

**Council Members Present:** Greg Knott, George Schneider, Lorah Super, Jean Bodeau, Andy Hover

**Council Members Absent, Excused:** Mike Fort, Bill Tackman, Soo Ing-Moody. Jeff Sarvis, absent without notice.

**Others in Attendance:** Dawn Chapel, David Clement, Susan Crampton, Jordana Ellis (OCD), and John Kirk (ECY),

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

Recording available here: [4.20.23 MWC Meeting Recording](#)

**Non-Procedural Motions**

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
	No Motions			

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jean Bodeau at 5:06 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
2. **Agenda:** Commissioner Hover moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Knott seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
3. **Minutes:** Councilmember Hover moved to approve the March 16, 2023; Minutes as amended. Councilmember Knott seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
4. **Attendance:** Councilmember Fort, Councilmember Tackman, and Mayor Ing-Moody were excused. At the time of this action, Councilmember Sarvis was still expected to join the meeting and his attendance was not addressed.
5. **Report from the Chair:** Council Chair Bodeau reported she will be meeting with committee chairs to refine work plans and budgets to develop more specifics. Administrator Lane and the MWF are working on committee budget templates. Councilmember Bodeau will schedule meeting with committee chairs. Councilmember Schneider asked if there is a budget for committees. Councilmember Bodeau said there are general budgets for the committees that need to be refined.
6. **MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**  
MWF Chair McDonald reported on the meeting with himself, Councilmember Bodeau and the Commissioners on April 11. Commissioner Hover indicated there was enough money in the water quality fund to contract for a couple of years. McDonald will follow up with Pete Palmer to work on the new contract with the County. The MWF also is working on a finance policy document and approved the purchase of a new laptop for the administrator.
7. **Committee Reports:**  
**Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Knott**  
Councilmember Knott reported continuing informal contacts with ditch companies. Next presentation will be Water Law 101 with Natalie Kuehler confirmed for May 17. In the fall, the outreach committee will continue presentations determining the price or value of water. Administrator Lane noted the Water Law presentation will be a hybrid meeting.  
  
Councilmember Knott also reported on working on setting up dates for a table at the market. Outreach will ask Councilmembers it participate.

### **Policy Committee, Chair: Super**

Councilmember Super reported committee discussions on purpose and goals. This committee will work on a charter, to help clarify work. Councilmember Bodeau reminded the council that the motion that created the policy committee specifically regarded housing. The policy committee is looking at DIP and Water 2066 to help develop a list of policy issues it can address.

Super reported on the policy committee purpose as defined to date is: The committee will act as an information gathering and advisory committee to the Council, interacting with other organizations as needed regarding water policy. The Policy committee will develop proposals to be presented to the MWC for further action. After reviewing foundational documents, the committee will identify a list of 5-10 prioritized items to discuss, bring to MWC, and develop tasks for each item. Councilmember Bodeau also noted that this committee is not exclusively restricted to housing issues.

### **Technical Committee, Chair: Schneider**

Councilmember Schneider reported that the technical committee met and discussed a water supply solution in the works in Kittitas that the Council can review. The committee talked about the drought project. Information gathering is a first step. A questionnaire is being developed for stakeholders and agencies around the valley. There is an opportunity to get business-focused questionnaire in the upcoming May Twispworks newsletter. It will query business about business use of water and their vulnerabilities, areas of interest for learning more, and address their needs. The next meeting will focus on the work plan for the drought project.

### **Water Banking, Chair: Tackman**

Councilmember Tackman was absent. Jordana Ellis of the Okanogan Conservation District gave an update. The OCD has returned its edited contract to Ecology Tuesday (April 18). Ecology promises to sign by May 1. The Barkley acquisition application will be submitted at the end of April.

Councilmember Bodeau asked what the next steps are to move forward for creating the bank after May 1. Ellis said the organization will be formed and the first acquisition worked on, which includes official valuation of the water in the offer, making an offer related to letter of intent, and moving forward from there.

MWF Chair McDonald asked if there were interested buyers for that water. Commissioner Hover said there are.

## **8. Local Government Reports**

**Town of Winthrop-** Absent

**Town of Twisp-** Absent

**Okanogan County-** Commissioner Hover reported the County is following water banking. They are working on an RFQ for a person to work on water codes for domestic, industrial uses of water that the County will be handling in its partnership with the water bank.

## **9. News From the Community:**

Councilmember Knott has two large ditches in his area: Chewuch and Skyline. He was recently discussing issues broadly regarding the Skyline ditch with a large user. Skyline has a "Federal Nexus"; their headgate is in the National Forest, and they must deal with state and federal issues for permitting, which has had some challenges. They are also having infrastructure challenges. Early Winters is also a Federal Nexus operation. On the topic of leasing water if it was needed elsewhere during a drought, they said yes, if it does not leave the valley. Commissioner Hover said Colville Confederated Tribes may be able to help with infrastructure.

Councilmember Super reported there is a 7PM presentation from MVCC and Trout Unlimited for Phase 1 study on cutthroat trout, this evening. She also signed a letter of support for TU funding request for feasibility /alternative for Fulton ditch.

## **10. Ecology Report: No Report**

**11. Presentation:**

John Kirk, Technical Unit supervisor of water resources, Central Region Department of Ecology gave a presentation on bedrock wells and water supply. ([See video for full presentation.](#)) Kirk covered the physical processes of hydrology in a bedrock system and the potential methods to artificially recharge a bedrock aquifer.

Commissioner Hover asked if closed basins could be adjudicated in order to determine current water rights and water use to figure out how much water is available. There are no instream flow rules on the creeks, and they were closed procedurally. Kirk said he believes basins were closed to protect senior users and does not think there are fisheries issues. If an adjudication showed water available, the rule would still need to be modified. Commissioner Hover asked if Ecology would have any interest in adjudication. Kirk said Ecology is working in NW region but could ask to be next in line. The hard part would be changing the rule.

Councilmember Knott asked regarding the possibility of trucking water in Kittitas County, how was the amount of water that was required to mitigate determined, in order to make the stream whole? Kirk said on the Granite Creek project, homes are limited to inside use only, and the calculation was used 10% consumed of approx. 200 gpd x number of houses. That was the amount that needed to be released from a cistern for recharge. Councilmember Knott as if there was any biological consideration. Kirk said not that he was aware of, for fish or other needs.

Commissioner Hover said that, theoretically, if the river was to be called, you might not need to mitigate year-round, but only seasonally. Kirk said if it is closed year-round it would need to be. Without adjudication the assumption would be a need for year-round mitigation.

**12. Agenda Item 4.20.23-01: Public Comment:**

No written Comment received.

No public comment

**13. Agenda Item 4.20.23-02: Next Steps**

- a. Tech committee Drought Planning Update: May Agenda
- b. Proposed discussion: Adjudication in closed basins

**14. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM

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Councilmember Jean Bodeau, Council Chair

June 15, 2023